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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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TAGS:CVIS, TPHY, US, UR

SUBJECT: VISAS-SOVIET ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO LONG-TERM

-- SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE VISITORS

FOR SCI COUNS, P AND C COUNS

REF: A. STATE 71453 B. MOSCOW 4389 C. MOSCOW 4449

1. DEPARTMENT SHARES EMBASSY'S VIEWS RE DESIRABILITY OF EXCHANGE VISITORS SECURING EXIT VISAS FROM SOVIET CONSULATE PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FROM US BOTH FOR PRACTICAL REASONS AND IN THE INTERESTS OF RECIPROCITY.

2. HOWEVER ANY DECISION ON POSSIBLE APPROACH HERE TO SOVIETS, AND CONTENT OF OUR CASE IF WE RAISE ISSUE, WILL BE AFFECTED BY JUDGEMENT WHETHER SOV EMBASSY ACTION IN NOT GIVING EXIT VISA TO CHEMICAL CATALYSIS RESEARCH FELLOW MAGNUSSON REPRESENTS A CHANGE IN POLICY, OR IS, AS
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CLAIMED BY SOVIET CONSUL, STANDARD PROCEDURE.

3. DESPITE THREE INSTANCES LAST MONTH, TWO INVOLVING VISITS LONGER THAN THREE MONTHS, OF SOVIET CONSULATE ISSUANCE OF BOTH ENTRANCE AND EXIT VISAS (CITED REF A), IT IS DEPARTMENT'S IMPRESSION THAT STANDARD SOVIET CONSULAR PRACTICE IS TO ISSUE ONLY ENTRANCE VISA TO LONG TERM EXCHANGE VISITORS (THREE MONTHS OR LONGER). SHORT TERM DELEGATIONS ON THE OTHER HAND INVARIABLY ARE ISSUED BOTH ENTRY AND EXIT VISAS BY SOVIET CONSULATE. NAS AND THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND EXCHANGES BOARD (IREX), WHICH PROGRAM VAST MAJORITY OF LONG-TERM EXCHANGE VISITORS TO THE USSR, INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT THEIR LONG TERM SCHOLARS HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN ISSUED ONLY ENTRANCE VISAS BY SOVIET CONSULATE HERE.

4. IN LIGHT OF THIS DEPARTMENT DOES NOT INTEND, AT THIS TIME, TO HOLD UP SENDING PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS TO THE USSR IF THEY LACK EXIT VISAS. (AS SUGGESTED PARA 1 OF REF B)

5. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON EMBASSY EXPERIENCE IN THIS REGARD AND ITS VIEWS ON DEGREE TO WHICH SOVIET EXIT VISA PRACTICES HAVE CAUSED DIFFICULTIES FOR EXCHANGE VISITORS. INGERSOLL

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